



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 11

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 24

Senate, March 11, 2008

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE PARKS AND FORESTS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Commissioner of
2 Environmental Protection shall establish and maintain a state parks
3 and forests stewardship program to provide for proper management
4 of the state parks and forests and to allow appropriate repair,
5 maintenance or improvement to any building, facility or structure that
6 provides or enhances public access to, or enjoyment of, the state parks
7 and forests. Such program shall be funded from bond proceeds
8 authorized and allocated pursuant to section 2 of this act. Such funds
9 shall be used for purposes of capital improvements in buildings,
10 facilities, structures and any related infrastructure.

11 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) For the purposes described in
12 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
13 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
14 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in

15 the aggregate fifteen million dollars.

16 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
17 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
18 Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of
19 implementing the state parks and stewardship program established
20 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

21 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
22 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
23 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
24 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
25 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
26 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
27 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
28 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
29 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
30 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
31 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
32 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
33 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
34 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
35 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
36 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
37 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
38 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
39 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
40 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
41 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
42 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
43 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
44 due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2008	New section
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Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
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ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill authorizes \$15.0 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds for the State Parks and Forests Stewardship Program and requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer it. The bill does not specify what amount, if any, would be used for administration of the program.

The total General Fund debt service cost for principal and interest payments on this amount over 20 years assuming a 5.0% interest rate, is \$22.9 million. The first year that the state will experience costs associated with the bonds depends on when they are allocated through the State Bond Commission and when DEP begins expending them.

It should be noted that Section 2(e) of SB 27, "AA Authorizing Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements and Other Purposes," contains a \$15.0 million GO bond authorization for the same program.

The Out Years

State Impact:

The ongoing fiscal impact for the \$15.0 million in GO bonds is the General Fund debt service payments over 20 years.

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 24*****AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE PARKS AND FORESTS
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the environmental protection commissioner to establish and maintain a state parks and forest stewardship program. The program must (1) provide for proper management of state parks and forests and (2) allow for the repair, maintenance, or improvement to any building, facility, or other structure that allows or enhances public access to, or enjoyment of, these parks and forests. The bill authorizes up to \$15 million in state general obligation bonds to fund capital improvements to the buildings, facilities, structures, and any related infrastructure. The bonds are subject to standard statutory bond issuance and repayment requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (02/29/2008)